



## **NEWS**

### **Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas** **L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2<sup>nd</sup> District**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Aurelio Rojas 213-974-2222  
James Bolden 213-200-5314

#### **BOARD APPROVES JOINT MOTION URGING NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR COUNTY-CONTRACTED VENDING MACHINES**

**LOS ANGELES** – The Board of Supervisors today approved a joint request by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Mike Antonovich that county vending machines solely provide health food and beverage choices.

The motion requires vending machines on county property, except those in Sheriff's custody facilities, to meet the State of California's Nutrition Guidelines. Beaches and Harbors vending machines will have up to three years to meet the new requirements.

"In light of this growing obesity and diabetes crisis rampant across the County, the same type of progressive response is required in order for Los Angeles to truly stand as a model, health-promoting employer," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. "We have an opportunity to lead by example,"

In 2006, the Board of Supervisors called for the development of the Physical Activity and Nutrition Task Force to study this issue and provide recommendations. The Board ultimately adopted a policy that required 33% of all foods and beverages offered in County-contracted vending machines to adhere to state nutritional guidelines by 2009, and that 50% meet a similar standard by 2011.

While the benchmarks demonstrated the Board's interest in promoting healthy food options, the Supervisor stated that the County needs widespread policies that build comprehensive workplace wellness programs and ensure consequential opportunities and exposure to healthy foods.

“Currently, hundreds of vending machines in facilities throughout the County are up for contract renewal and this provides a timely opportunity for us to scale up our nutritional programming to meaningfully set a precedent for health food promotion,” the Supervisor said.

The motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Antonovich also asked the County’s Chief Executive Officer to work with the Department of Public Health to define the highest strategic priorities in order to improve nutritional policy and programs at the countywide level and report back with their findings in 30 days.

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